

OPPORTUNITY FUNDING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

October 28, 2019
Department of Education Conference Room
Townsend Building

Chair Dorrell Green, Red Clay Consolidated School District superintendent, called the first meeting of the Opportunity Funding Oversight Committee to order at 5:05 p.m. on Monday, October 28th. In attendance were committee members Brody Bluemel, Susan Bunting, Brent Carter, Maureen Darlington, Holly Garcia, Julie Giangiulio, Ashley Giska, Dorrell Green, Diana Magana, and Linda Poole and two community members, Regina Sidney-Brown and Jon Sheehan.

Welcome/Introductions

After welcoming meeting participants, Green asked that attendees introduce themselves.

Purpose of Committee

Green subsequently reviewed Executive Order No. 33 that established the committee, accenting the importance of its composition. He explained that the Opportunity Funding initiative provides a type of weighted funding to support low income and English learner (EL) students in increasing their reading and math proficiency levels. Sheehan from the Office of the Governor said Governor Carney created the Oversight Committee to assure that the investment of \$75 million in these two subgroups over the next three years enhances their ability to read and do math at grade level. After Bunting explained the Opportunity Funding (OF) application process, the group members shared how in general the monies have been expended in their respective districts/charter. Subsequently, Bunting outlined the evaluation process, which involves not only the work of the committee but also the goal-setting process with superintendents and charter heads and the third-party evaluation by the Rand Corporation.

Goals Establishment

Green's review of the executive order highlighted several of the committee's charges. One is the need to determine which initiatives are most significantly promoting student learning. Secondly, the group is responsible for organizing a "showcase" featuring the Opportunity Funding investments that are making the most measured differences in low-income and English learner students' academic growth. Giska championed the flexible use of Opportunity Funding, which enabled each district/charter to customize the funding plan to best meet the needs of its students. Committee members explained that although qualitative measures are important, quantitative ones are most influential in informing continued financial support and reiterated that growth toward proficiency is the primary focus.

Meeting participants supported the careful examination of the following:

- Pre-K programs for ELs and low-income students
- Practices that work with transient students
- Both strategies and curriculum to use with newcomers
- Effective extra time programs
- The impact of Multi-Tiered Student Supports (MTSS)
- Social/emotional and mental health supports
- Community and family engagement
- Effective professional learning

Sheehan expressed the hope that as a result of trying various staffing, training, and program plans, the most effective can be identified. Such best practices then will be showcased.

Next Steps

The Secretary's Office will send out a poll to committee members to determine a date for a mid-November or early December meeting, which will be held in DOE's Cabinet Room from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Committee members expressed interest in viewing the contents of individual districts' and charters' plans, which can be viewed in their entirety online at www.doe.k12.de.us/opportunityfunding. A general list of the districts'/charters' Opportunity Funding and schools' mental health/reading support investments will be distributed with the minutes.

Adjournment

Because there were no public comments, Green adjourned the meeting at 6:09 pm.

